

Dear Rating Host Participant,

Thank you for your continued participation in ENERGY STAR's Automated Benchmarking Pilot Initiative. We have two important announcements;

1. The pilot initiative, in which you are a participant, is now closed to new hosts. This will allow us to concentrate on working with you and your customers to move the automated benchmarking initiative from pilot to an anticipated formal launch of this effort in mid-2005. Until then, you will find all of our supporting documentation and tools for this initiative on the web at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=neprs.neprs\\_documentation](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=neprs.neprs_documentation).
2. EPA has set a deadline of 31 December 2004 for identifying your customers that currently use Portfolio Manager and for whom you intend to provide ratings. This will allow our IT team to manage data reconciliation during the coming months when they will also be developing, testing, and rolling out a more robust application for receiving XML files. Please keep us informed regarding which customers have accepted your proposals to participate in this pilot.

Thank you for your continued participation in ENERGY STAR's Automated Benchmarking Pilot Initiative. We are excited at the number of ratings that are already being delivered through this initiative, and ENERGY STAR Partners that currently use Portfolio Manager (our pilot target audience) have responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to get ratings through their energy information vendors.

If you have any questions or comments on the initiative, or would like to inform us regarding anticipated customers, feel free to contact Sarah O'Connell at [soconnell@icfconsulting.com](mailto:soconnell@icfconsulting.com).

Sincerely,  
National Energy Performance Rating System Support